

Appl. No. : 09/652113
 Filed : August 29, 2000

REMARKS

By this paper, Claims 4 and 36 have been canceled. Claims 5, 8-13, 17, 19, 30-32, 34, and 35 have been amended. Claims 6, 7, 14-16, 18, 20-29, and 33 remain unchanged. Thus, Claims 5-35 remain pending in the application and are presented for further examination.

In the Office Action of December 2, 2005, the Examiner allowed Claims 24-29. In order to advance prosecution, Applicant has canceled, without prejudice to prosecution in a continuation application, independent Claim 4. In addition, Applicant has amended Claims 5-23, 30-31, and 33-35 to depend, either directly or indirectly, from allowed Claims 24 and 25. Previously independent Claim 32 has also been amended to depend from Claim 24 and amended to remove duplicative matter. Hence, as Claims 24 and 25 have been allowed, Applicant submits that Claims 5-23 and 30-35 also define patentable subject matter and are allowable. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner allow the application to proceed to issuance.

Applicant notes that “[d]uring prosecution, the order of claims [has changed] and [may] be in conflict with the requirement that dependent claims refer to a preceding claim.” M.P.E.P. § 608.01(n)(IV). “Accordingly, the numbering of dependent claims [e.g., Claims 5, 8-13, 17, and 19,] and the number of preceding claims referred to in dependent claims should be carefully checked when claims are renumbered upon allowance.” *Id.*

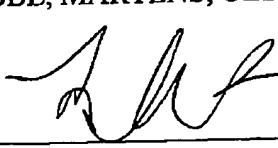
If the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully invited to call the undersigned. Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 2, 2006

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